



Market News Branch

On the Market
In New York, prices were 3 cents lower on all sizes. The market tone was barely steady to weak entering the weekend. Demand continued in a full range of light to good with the best movement centered around feature activity. Supplies were sufficient to ample for current trade needs. Breaking stock offerings were adequate to ample for the light to moderate demand. Breaking schedules were mixed. Light type fowl were fully sufficient for the fair to moderate demand. Processing schedules for next week were reported as normal.

MIDWEST REGIONAL EGG Producer prices were sharply lower for all sizes. Other reported prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Retail demand is still reported as moderate to good and continued to improve but still was not enough to keep up with current supplies. Food service movement was light to mostly moderate. Supplies were fully adequate to available.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending sharply lower on all sizes. The market tone was unsettled entering the weekend and ranged barely steady to weak. Demand into all channels was light to moderate. Supplies were adequate or available to ample. Breaking stock offerings were generally adequate and demand was moderate. Schedules were reported as irregular. Spent hens were fully sufficient for the fair to moderate demand. Processing schedules were reported as normal.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL EGG Prices unchanged. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Retail demand was moderate to good with planned feature activity providing some much needed interest in many areas. Food service movement was about moderate. Supplies remained fully adequate to available for the current demand. Central states breaking stock prices were lower. Offerings were fully adequate to ample and still included some graded product. Demand was light to moderate. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment steady to mostly weak.

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL EGG Prices were unchanged, however asking prices for next week's deliveries were trending sharply lower on all weights. The market tone was weak entering the weekend. Demand was light to moderate, slightly better where features enhanced movement at retail centers. Supplies ranged fully adequate to ample for current trade needs. Breaking stock demand was moderate for sufficient offerings. Breaking schedules were mixed. Light type fowl were fully adequate for the fair to moderate demand. Slaughter schedules were reported as normal for the upcoming week.

NEW YORK EGGS Prices were 3 cents lower. The market tone was weak and unsettled entering the weekend. Retail demand was light to moderate. Supplies of all sizes were fully adequate to ample for current requirements.

CHICAGO AND MIDWEST EGGS Prices were unchanged. The market tone was barely steady to weak. Retail demand was moderate to good. Food service movement was moderate. Supplies were ample.

WESTERN REGION EGG Prices were unchanged. The market tone was weak. Asking prices for next week 8 cents lower on jumbo and extra large, 7 cents lower on large and 11 cents lower on medium throughout the region. Retailer demand was fair overall best to cover scattered feature activities. Offerings were ample.

CALIFORNIA EGGS Prices unchanged. The market tone was weak with asking prices for next week 8 cents lower on jumbo and extra large, 7 cents lower on large, 11 cents lower on medium and small. Retailer demand was light to moderate best where limited features in progress. Offerings ample overall. Small benchmark price 122. Ads in Southern California: major – none noted; smaller outlets – dozen jumbo 199, dozen extra large 2 for 300, 20 count pack extra large 2 for 500, 20 count pack large 2 for 500.

CALIFORNIA California Egg Marketing Association and other marketers benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms. **RANGE**

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PRICES TO RETAILERS, SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, USDA GRADE AA AND
GRADE AA, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED STORE DOOR, CENTS
PER DOZEN. **RANGE**

PER DOZEN.	RANGE
JUMBO	148-156
EXTRA LARGE	146-154
LARGE	144-147
MEDIUM	129-132

PRICES TO CONSUMERS MAJOR CHAINS, METROPOLITAN AREA, USDA
GRADE AA AND GRADE AA. WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS. CENTS PER DOZEN.

	RANGE
JUMBO	299-399
EXTRA LARGE	289-359
LARGE	239-349
MEDIUM	199-289

CENTRAL STATES BREAKING STOCK All prices were lower. Offerings were fully adequate to ample with demand light to moderate at lower trending prices. Spot trading included graded shell eggs with most buyers only purchasing for immediate needs and awaiting further market developments. Schedules full-time. Trade sentiment barely steady to mostly weak.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	75-80	
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	68-74	68-70
CENTRAL STATES AREA:		
AR,CO,IA,IL,IN,KS,LA,MI,MN,MO,NM,ND,NE,OH,OK,SD,TX,WI		

EASTERN REGION BREAKING STOCK Majority prices were sharply lower when compared to early week trading. Demand was moderate, but usually at lower trending levels than early week. Floor stocks were generally adequate for irregular breaking schedules. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak. Cases broken under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 20 March 2004 were 5% more than the previous week, and 14% higher than the same week a year ago.

Prices paid, material exchanged, 30 dozen case equivalent, 48 lb., minimum net weight, delivered to breakers, cents per dozen.

	RANGE	MOSTLY
BREAKING STOCK	79-88	82-84
CHECKS & UNDERGRADES	67-74	69-74
EASTERN REGION AREA:		
AL,CT,DE,FL,GA,KY,ME,MD,MA,MS,NH,NJ,NY,NC,PA,RI,SC,TN,VT,VA,WV		

EGGS PROCESSED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION - W/E 20-MAR-04

(Lbs in thousands)		(EXCLUDES INGREDIENTS)				
	CASES	LIQUID	LIQUID	LIQUID	DRIED	INED
	BROKEN	WHOLE	WHITE	YOLK		
CW	1,160,324	28,714	10,452	5,909	1,983	4,002
PW	1,167,965	28,880	10,633	5,989	2,371	4,140
LY	1,103,928	27,637	9,365	5,208	1,917	3,965
% CHG PW	-1	-1	-2	-1	-16	-3
% CHG LY	5	4	12	13	3	1
2004	12,757,012	302,568	122,397	68,644	28,641	44,886
2003	12,287,288	298,065	111,733	61,934	26,894	45,463
% CHG YTD	4	2	10	11	6	-1

AVERAGE YIELD PER CASE-	CURRENT	PREVIOUS	LAST
	WEEK	WEEK	YEAR
(INEDIBLE INCLUDED)	42.30	42.50	41.83
(INEDIBLE EXCLUDED)	38.85	38.96	38.24

NATIONAL LIQUID Pasteurized whites reported from 84 to 86 cents fob with pasteurized salt yolk reported from 63 to 64 cents fob. Trade sentiment was barely steady to weak for whole egg and steady on the balance. Most breakers sited good interest for all liquid products with offerings adequate to in close balance for all liquid products. Breaking stock prices were sharply lower when compared to the previous week.

Prices paid cents per lb., FOB Plant to 10:00 AM non-pasteurized trucklot. For delivery within 14 days.

CLASS	LOADS	RANGE	WTD. AVG.	CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK
WHOLE	9	73-81.5	79.08	-2.63
WHITES	14	76-77.5	77.13	-2.28
YOLKS		TFEWR		

EASTERN REGION FROZEN Majority prices were generally unchanged on whole and whites, but unchanged to lower on yolks when compared to the previous week's trading. Trade sentiment was cautious, although most traders were steady on whites, and mixed on whole and yolks. Buyers were unaggressive and purchasing on a as needed basis. Supplies were tight on whites, close balance to adequate on whole, and at least adequate on yolks. Liquid and frozen eggs (ingredients included) processed under federal inspection in the Eastern region for the week ending 20 March 2004 were 1% less than the previous week, but 16% more than last year.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb containers)		LTL
		(MIN. 25 CONT.)
	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	85-94	87-89
BLENDS (/)	TFEWR	97-105
WHITES	89-93	89-91
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-78	81-92
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	71-75	78-83
(/)- Whole plus yolk plus sweetener, generally 20-32% egg solids.		

CENTRAL REGION FROZEN Frozen whole egg prices ranged 1 to 2 cents lower with the balance of prices ranging unchanged. Trade sentiment was steady to barely steady for whole egg, at least steady for whites, and steady on sugared and salted yolk. Demand was mostly fair for all frozen products with offerings balanced to adequate. Sellers held for current prices and intended to clear current inventories of frozen whole egg before lowering offering prices. Breaking stock prices were sharply lower when compared to the previous week's reported prices.

Wholesale selling prices (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)		LTL
		(MIN. 25 CONT.)
	RANGE	MOSTLY
WHOLE	86-90	89-90
WHITES	89-92	90-92
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	74-78	78
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)	72-75	

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FROZEN Prices were 3 cents lower on whole with whites and yolks unchanged. Southern California breaking activity for the week ending 3/20 was 17% less than the previous week. Frozen demand was moderate with freezer stocks generally adequate. Wholesale selling prices, f.o.b. shipping point (cents per lb. in 30 lb. containers)

LTL (MIN. 25 CONT.)		RANGE
WHOLE		92-95
WHITES		94-97
SUGARED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)		81-84
SALTED YOLKS (MIN 43% SOLIDS)		79-82

NATIONAL DRIED EGG REPORT Majority prices were unchanged to slightly lower on whole, unchanged to lower on albumen, and usually unchanged on balance of items when compared to a week earlier. Trucklot trading was limited. Overall, demand was moderate to light, with most buyers limiting purchases to immediate needs. However, some forward interest was developing. The undertone was mixed and unsettled with trade sentiment steady to about steady. Dried eggs processed under federal inspection for the week ending 20 March 2004 were 16% less than the previous week, but 3% more than last year. The total year to date dried eggs produced were 6% more than a year ago.

Wholesale selling prices, dollars per lb., in containers, trucklot & less-than-trucklot volumes.

WHOLE	3.30-3.65	MOSTLY 3.35-3.53
YOLKS	1.55-2.10	MOSTLY 1.65-1.75
ALBUMEN, SPRAY, DRIED	6.65-7.35	MOSTLY 6.90-7.15
BLENDS (WHOLE PLUS SWEETENER)	2.00-2.55	MOSTLY 2.10-2.25

TRAILER LOAD EGG SALES WEEKLY WTD AVG PRICES (CENTS/DOZ) NATIONAL TRADING FOR MAR 19, 2004-MAR 25, 2004**CURRENT LOADS** 63.00**FUTURE LOADS** 37.50**TOTAL LOADS** 100.50

	SE		NE		MW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	97.00	105.80	96.00	98.17	102.00	—	17.00
GNR W 3	—	—	71.00	73.00	79.25	83.00	4.00
GNR BR 1	—	93.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
GL W J	—	—	—	—	95.50	—	2.00
GL W XL	—	120.00	110.00	111.13	96.06	—	33.00
GL W LG	—	116.41	105.90	107.00	91.40	—	29.00
GL W MD	88.00	97.00	77.00	78.00	85.34	90.00	11.50
GL W SM	53.50	55.00	58.00	59.50	—	—	2.50
GL BR LG	—	—	—	—	—	113.00	.75
NRBS - 50	—	—	—	92.00	—	98.00	1.25
NRBS - 48	—	—	84.50	89.00	76.67	77.63	15.00
NRBS - 42	—	59.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
NRBS - 39	—	—	78.50	80.00	59.00	—	2.00
NRBS - 36	—	—	—	—	56.67	58.92	3.00

	SC		NW		SW		
CLASS	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	ORG	DST	LOADS
GNR W 1	—	108.00	—	—	—	—	5.00
GNR BR 1	—	98.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
GL W J	106.00	—	—	—	—	108.00	2.75
GL W XL	94.92	97.00	—	126.00	—	105.27	13.00
GL W LG	100.00	114.53	—	128.00	—	108.65	14.25
GL W MD	78.00	79.00	—	83.00	—	91.07	8.00
NRBS - 39	—	66.00	—	—	—	—	1.00

WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICES ARE LISTED FOR VARIOUS CLASSES PRICED BY ORIGIN AND/OR DESTINATION FOR 6 REGIONS. THE LOADS COLUMN REFLECTS TOTAL LOADS REPORTED AND INCLUDES LOADS WITH PRICES TO BE DETERMINED LATER. NRBS CATEGORIES REPRESENT NET WEIGHT-MATERIAL MAY OR MAY NOT BE INCLUDED. LOAD MOVEMENT REPRESENTS TOTAL MOVEMENT WITHIN 6 REGIONS.

LIGHT TYPE HENS

CENTS PER HEAD, GENERALLY FOR REMOVAL
WITHIN THE NEXT 10 DAYS
(INCLUDES HANDLING, FREIGHT AND ANY OTHER
CHARGES, WEIGHTS AVERAGE ABOUT 3.50 POUNDS)

EASTERN REGION LIGHT LIVE HEN Majority prices were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was fair to moderate. Offering of spent fowl were fully sufficient for trade needs. Processing schedules were normal. Opinions on removal cost were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST 0-12 9-11

SOUTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Costs of disposal were too few to report. Demand for spent hens was light. Offerings remained fully adequate. Schedules were sufficient to cover a fair call for finished product. Values were expected to remain steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST TOO FEW TO REPORT

NORTH CENTRAL LIGHT LIVE HEN Removal costs were unchanged to lower as the majority of reported spent fowl moved into traditional slaughter processors. Offerings were adequate while demand was mostly moderate. Opinions of value were steady.

RANGE MAJORITY

REMOVAL COST 0-7 4.5-5

WEST COAST LIGHT LIVE HEN Plants worked fairly heavy slaughter schedules. Demand was fairly good. Offerings were generally adequate.

SHELL EGGS-COMBINED REGIONAL

AVERAGE PRICES ON SALES TO VOLUME BUYERS, GRADE A LARGE OR BETTER, WHITE EGGS IN CARTONS, DELIVERED WAREHOUSE, CENTS PER DOZEN.

REGIONS	EX LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM
NORTHEAST	124.50	122.00	107.00
SOUTHEAST	125.50	123.50	106.00
MIDWEST	119.00	117.50	104.00
SOUTH CENTRAL	123.50	122.50	106.50
COMBINED REGIONAL	123.11	121.40	105.90

Computed from simple weekly averages weighted by regional area populations.

NATIONAL CANNER FOWL MARKET Sales were too few to report on heavy canners. Light canners were unchanged when compared to a week earlier. Demand was at least moderate for lights; fair to moderate for heavies as most available supplies were being used internally. Limited offerings were clearing satisfactorily. Processing schedules were normal. Trade sentiment was at least steady.

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, WITHOUT FREIGHT COST

LIGHT CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

22.5-31 MAJORITY

HEAVY CANNER HENS
(WITHOUT NECKS)

TOO FEW TO REPORT

CENTS PER POUND, CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, FREIGHT COST INCLUDED

LIGHT CANNER HENS
(LINE RUN WITHOUT NECKS)

25-32 MAJORITY 27-27.5

HEAVY CANNER HENS
(WITHOUT NECKS)

TOO FEW TO REPORT

LIVE POULTRY SLTRD UNDER INSPECTION W/E 20-Mar-04
(PRELIMINARY)

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED DOMESTICALLY

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	1,283	1,338	2,621
LAST WEEK	1,344	1,165	2,509
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,597	1,280	2,877
TO-DATE/2004	14,020	13,984	28,004
TO-DATE/2003	18,224	14,924	33,148

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
	THOUSANDS		
HEAD	202	11	213
LAST WEEK	377	0	377
SAME WEEK YR AGO	139	0	139
TO-DATE/2004	2,573	40	2,613
TO-DATE/2003	3,483	49	3,532

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, PLTRY DEVELOPMENT DIV.

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	1,485	1,349	2,834
LAST WEEK	1,721	1,165	2,886
SAME WEEK YR AGO	1,736	1,280	3,016
TO-DATE/2004	16,593	14,024	30,617
TO-DATE/2003	21,707	14,973	36,680

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 13, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
LIQUID	239	154	1,549 1,927
FROZEN	0	14	0 14
DRIED	0	51	97 135
TOTAL	239	219	1,646 2,076

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending March 13, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
LIQUID	88	49	1,072 1,309
FROZEN	0	198	200 923
DRIED	80	40	595 200
TOTAL	168	287	1,867 2,432

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending March 13, 2004		Year-To-Date	
Type	2004	2003 /1	2004 2003
JUMBO	0	0	50 0
EXTRA LARGE	0	30	2,160 180
LARGE	800	30	9,893 5,233
MEDIUM	1,500	3,120	7,530 8,884
UNGRADED	0	0	13,488 1,470
MISC	0	660	0 1,392
TOTAL	2,300	3,840	33,121 17,159

/1Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

Data Source: Agriculture Canada, Poultry Development Division.

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.

WEEKLY COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS - (INCL GOVT STOCKS)

SELECTED STGE CENTERS (IN THOUSANDS)		FREGS LBS TURKS LBS POP LBS		
AM	03/22/04	3,157	173,026	41,082
AM	03/01/04	3,548	169,441	39,330
CHG		-391	3585	1752
PCT CHG		-11%	2%	4%

MOVEMENT OF EGGS INTO RETAIL CHANNELS

W/E 20-Mar-04

SELECTED CONSUMING CENTERS	CW THOUSANDS	PW	PCT CHG PW LY
ATLANTA	25.0	28.4	-12 18
BOSTON	3.3	3.3	0 -13
CHICAGO	71.4	61.0	17 63
DETROIT	27.1	24.4	11 -13
KANSAS CITY	3.0	12.2	-75 -21
LOS ANGELES	86.7	89.9	-4 5
NEW ORLEANS	8.4	7.5	12 -34
NEW YORK	28.4	29.3	-3 -10
ST. LOUIS	15.7	16.3	-4 -11
SAN FRANCISCO	20.1	20.5	-2 -10
TOTAL	289.1	292.8	-1 7
4 WK MVG AVG	303.1		

COMMERCIAL EGG MOVEMENT REPORT

W/E 20-Mar-04

(RECEIPTS FROM PRODUCERS)

REGIONS	CASES (IN THOUS)	PERCENT CHANGE FROM PW LY
N. ATLANTIC	220.3	-3 0
E.N. CENTRAL	585.2	5 6
W.N. CENTRAL	288.2	1 -1
S. ATLANTIC	185.7	1 -2
S. CENTRAL	104.1	4 4
WEST	190.0	3 5
TOTAL	1573.5	2 2
MATCHED PLANTS REPORTING		85 85

NEW ENGLAND WEEKLY SHELL EGG REPORT

Mar 23, 2004

PRICES PAID PER DOZEN GRADE A BROWN EGGS IN CARTONS DELIVERED STORE DOOR.

	EXTRA LARGE	LARGE	MEDIUM	SMALL
MAINE MOSTLY	156 -	150 -	122 -	85 -
NEW HAMPSHIRE MOSTLY	149-153 151-152	143-147 145-146	115-119 117-118	77-81 79-80
RHODE ISLAND MOSTLY	155-159 155	149-153 149	121-125 121	84-88 84
VERMONT MOSTLY	156-159 159	150-153 153	122-125 125	- -

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